

Message Text

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44

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 LAB-04 INR-07 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

IO-10 /035 W

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R 221806Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7624

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJECT: CLIVE JENKINS BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

REF: TELECON WITH DALE GOOD AND TOM BOWIE, S/IL, DEC. 19.

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. CLIVE JENKINS IS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL STAFFS.

HE WAS BORN IN 1926 AND EDUCATED AT PORT TALBOT CENTRAL BOYS' SCHOOL, PORT TALBOT COUNTY SCHOOL AND SWANSEA TECHNICAL COLLEGE, WHERE HE ATTENDED EVENING CLASSES. HE LEFT SCHOOL AT FOURTEEN TO ENTER A METAL WORKS WHERE HE WAS EMPLOYED IN THE METALLURGICAL TEST HOUSE, BECOMING A FURNACE SHIFT SUPERVISOR AT THE AGE OF SIXTEEN, IN CHARGE OF THE LABORATORY AT SEVENTEEN AND TIN PLATE NIGHT SHIFT FOREMAN AT NINETEEN. IN 1945 HE WAS ELECTED AS MEMBER OF THE LOCAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

JENKINS BEGAN WORK AS A TRADE UNION OFFICER IN 1946 WHEN HE WAS ELECTED BRANCH SECRETARY AND THEN AREA TREASURER FOR THE THEN ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC WORKERS. HE BECAME A FULL-TIME OFFICIAL THE FOLLOWING YEAR WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED ASSISTANT MIDLANDS DIVISIONAL OFFICER FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORY STAFFS, EXECUTIVES

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AND TECHNICIANS (ASSET) IN BIRMINGHAM. IN 1954 HE BECAME

THE ASSET NATIONAL OFFICER, BEING AT TWENTY-EIGHT THE
YOUNGEST NATIMNAL OFFICER WHICH THE UNION HAD EVER HAD.

AT THE TIME JENKINS WAS APPOINTED GENERAL SEC-
RETARY OF ASSET IN 1961 IT HAD 22,000 MEMBERS. HE HAD
ALREADY RAISED THIS MEMBERSHIP TO 55,000 CAMPAIGNING FOR
THE "WHITE COLLARED REVOLUTION" WHEN HE NEGOTIATED THE
AMALGAMATION MF ASSET WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC
WORKERS IN 1968. THIS BROUGHT THE NEW UNION, THE ASSOCIA-
TION OF SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND MANGERIAL STAFFS, TO
A MEMBERSHIP FIGURE OF 70,000, AND THE UNION NOW CLAIMS
OVER 350,000 MEMBERS. HE WAS JOINT GENERAL SECRETARY OF
THE NEW UNION FROM 1968-70 WHEN HE BECAME GENERAL SECRE-
TARY.

HE WAS A METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCILLOR FROM
1954-60 (WHEN HE BECAME CHAIRMAN OF THE STAFF COMMITTEE
OF THE ST. PANCRAS BOROUGH COUNCIL) AND CHAIRMAN OF THE
NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL FOR CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT FROM 1967-
69. HE WAS ALSO EDITOR OF "TRADE UNION AFFAIRS" FROM
1961-63 AND HAD A "TRIBUNE" COLUMN FROM OCTOBER 1963 TO
MAY 1969 AND A "DAILYMIRROR/DAILY RECORD" COLUMN FROM
THEN TO MAY 1970.

IN 1974 HE WAS ELECTED TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE TUC AND WAS APPOINTED A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL RE-
SEARCH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND A GOVERNOR OF WELBECK
COLLEGE.

MR. JENKINS'S PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE "POWER AT

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THE TOP" (1959); "POWER BEHIND THE SCREEN" (1961); "BRITISH TRADE UNIONS TODAY"(WITH J.E. MORTIMER, 1965); AND "THE KIND OF LAWS THE UNIONS OUGHT TO WANT "(ALSO WITH J.E. MORTIMER, 1968). IN ADDITION HE HAS PUBLISHED A NUMBER OF PAMPHLETS AND ESSAYS. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS A SON AND A DAUGHTER. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. JENKINS IS IN POLITICAL TERMS ON THE LEFT-WING OF THE LABOR PARTY, WITH CLOSE TIES TO IAN MIKARDO, A LEADING MEMBER OF THE PARTY'S TRIBUNE GROUP. HE IS AN EXTRA-ORDINARILY ARTICULATE LEADER, ALTHOUGH MOST FREQUENTLY HIS SPEECHES AND INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS ARE LACED WITH AN ACIDIC WIT WHICH INFURIATES HIS TARGETS AND DELIGHTS HIS SUPPORTERS. ONE CAN PLACE HIM ON THE LEFT-WING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, BUT IN MANY RESPECTS HE IS REALLY A MAVERICK -- A CHARACTERISTIC WHICH FREQUENTLY IRRITATES BOTH THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT AND KEPT HIM OFF THE GENERAL COUNCIL LONGER THAN WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CASE HAD HE CONFORMED TO NORMAL PATTERNS. HIS UNION -- WITH 351,000 MEMBERS -- IS ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING UNIONS IN THE TUC CONSTELLATION. IN PURELY TRADE UNION TERMS, AS AN OFFICIAL OF THE INFLUENTIAL ENGINEERING EMPLOYERS FEDERATION TOLD US, JENKINS TENDS TO EMPLOY MODERATE NEGOTIATING POSITIONS DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE WAS ONE OF THE LEADING OPPONENTS OF THE WAGE RESTRAINT POLICY. HIS UNION, LIKE OTHER TUC UNIONS. MAINTAINS CONTACT WITH COMMUNIST UNIONS IN EUROPE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT HE APPEARS TO PREFER THE "AMERICAN CONNECTION" AND TO ADMIRE MODERN AMERICAN TRADE UNION TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING EXPERT USE OF RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, AND IN THESE AREAS IS WELL AHEAD OF MOST OF HIS TRADITION-BOUND COLLEAGUES.

RICHARDSON

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